

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 13, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 13-18 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-6 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in view of a telephone conversation with the Examiner on October 17, 2007. Claims 7-11 and 13-18 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. More particularly, the Office Action asserted that claim 7 is vague and indefinite because it is unclear about the meaning of the claimed limitation "the other of first and second mirror disk," and further how and which other of the mirror surface disk is involved to form the pattern on a front end surface. In response, claim 7 has been amended to replace the phrase "the other of" with "another one of." As amended, claim 7 recites "a stamper attached to one of the first and second mirror-surface disks and having a fine pattern formed on a front end surface thereof and a bush extending through another one of the first and second mirror-surface disks." In light of the above amendment, claim 7 is clear and definite. As such, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claim 7 be withdrawn.

The Office Action also took the position that claim 8 recites the claimed limitation “wherein a groove” in lines 1-2, which lacks sufficient antecedent basis because claim 8 is dependent on claim 7, wherein claim 7 does not cite the limitation earlier, which makes the scope of the claim indeterminate. In response, claim 8 has been amended to replace the term “wherein” with “further comprising.” As such, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 8-11 be withdrawn.

Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,006,058 to Maruyama et al. (Maruyama). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Maruyama generally describes an apparatus for injecting molding a substrate of an information recording disk in which melted molding material is injected into a mold space after a pair of mold bodies are clamped together. An uneven surface area is provided between a cutting device for cutting the cured molding material at the molding surface and an aperture for supplying the pressurized gas for causing the cured molding material to be released. Fig. 7 of Maruyama is a sectional view of the cutting mechanism and its vicinity depicted by a circle A shown in Fig. 6 of Maruyama. The stamper 20, which forms part of a molding surface 19 of the movable mirror plate 11, for forming signal recording pits on the substrate to be formed is secured to the movable mirror plate 11 by a force along the outer circumferential portions of the stamper 20 by means of the outer circumferential clamp 13 and, also by a force along the inner circumferential portion of the stamper by the inner circumferential clamp 12, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that Maruyama fails to disclose or suggest, at least, “a first region provided to extend radially outward from an outer circumferential edge of the through hole projects from a second region provided to extend radially outward from the first region so as to form a step between the first and second regions,” as recited in claim 7. Maruyama does not provide any description of how a first region is provided to extend radially outward from an outer circumferential edge of the through hole projects from a second region provided to extend radially outward from the first region so as to form a step between the first and second regions, as recited in claim 7. Instead, the Office Action merely referred to Fig. 1 and Fig. 7 of Maruyama in an attempt to shown an illustration of the above-discussed limitation of claim 7.

However, Fig. 1 and Fig. 7 of Maruyama merely illustrate that the movable mirror plate 11 for forming signal recording pits on the substrate to be formed is secured to the movable mirror plate 11 by a force along the outer circumferential portions of the stamper 20 by means of the outer circumferential clamp 13 and, also by a force along the inner circumferential clamp 12, respectively. Thus, Fig. 1 and Fig. 7 of Maruyama do not describe the above-discussed feature.

Therefore, Maruyama does not disclose or suggest the above-described limitation, and fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 7. As such, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn.

Furthermore, the Office Action took the position that the grooves 64c and 64 are formed between the first and second region, wherein the first region is a region for

forming a clamp area 12. Thus, Maruyama does not disclose or suggest this limitation of claim 8 because Maruyama merely describes that the air blow groove 29 communicates with an external gas supply pump 30 through a groove formed in the sleeve 27 through machining in the longitudinal direction of the fixed sleeve 27.

Claims 8-11 are dependent upon claim 7. Accordingly, claims 8-11 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claim 7, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

For the reasons explained above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 7-11 and 13-18 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. Also, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unobvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that all of claims 7-11 and 13-18 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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